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U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/625,824

REMARKSI. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 6-10, 13, 15, 19, 23, 26, 29-31, 33, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,360,168, to Shimabara ("SHIMABARA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,684,937, to Oxaal ("OXAAL").

A. Claim 1

It is axiomatic that the combination of cited references in a §103 rejection must disclose every element in the rejected claim.

Claim 1 recites a method for enabling a three-dimensional simulation through a region, comprising:

obtaining information about a path traversed by a user through a region, including a plurality of locations on said path;
acquiring content associated with at least some of said locations, said content being captured by said user during a previous traversal of said path;
correlating said locations with said content; and
enabling an interactive three-dimensional simulation through said region as experienced from a moving vantage point that can occur at different altitudes along a simulation route, including:

accessing a three-dimensional map for at least a portion of said region; and
associating said acquired content to locations on said three-dimensional map based on said correlation.

1. SHIMABARA Does Not Disclose or Suggest Acquiring Content that Was Captured by the User During a Previous Traversal of the Path

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Claim 1 has been amended to recite the step of acquiring content associated with at least some of said locations, said content being captured by said user during a previous traversal of said path. This amended limitation has support on at least pages 7-9 of the Specification.

SHIMABARA discloses a vehicle navigation apparatus for enhancing recognition of various guiding images on a map displayed to a driver. SHIMABARA, col. 1, lines 49-51. A vehicle navigation apparatus generally detects the current position of a vehicle, obtains map data in the vicinity of the vehicle, and displays the map on a screen. SHIMABARA, col. 1, lines 11-14. In SHIMABARA, the guiding route is calculated by a processing unit based on a vehicle's current position and its desired destination. SHIMABARA, col. 8, lines 1-8. SHIMABARA does not disclose or suggest acquiring content that was captured by a user during a previous traversal of a path.

In contrast, claim 1 recites acquiring content associated with at least some of said locations, said content being captured by said user during a previous traversal of said path.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that SHIMABARA does not disclose or suggest this step of claim 1.

2. OXAAL Also Does Not Disclose or Suggest Acquiring Content that Was Captured by the User During a Previous Traversal of the Path

OXAAL discloses an image processing system for changing the perspective of a visible image in producing a result image. OXAAL, col. 1, lines 17-21. OXAAL does not disclose or suggest any method of simulation that uses content captured by a user during a previous traversal of a path.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that OXAAL also does not disclose or suggest this step of claim 1.

B. Independent Claims 9, 26, 31, 35, and 36

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Independent claims 9, 26, 31, 35, and 36 recite substantially the same limitations as described above regarding claim 1. Based on the foregoing arguments regarding the same limitations, these independent claims are also not unpatentable over SHIMABARA in view of OXAAL.

C. Dependent Claims 2-8, 10-25, 27-30, and 32-34

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-25, 27-30, and 32-34 are dependent on independent claims 1, 9, 26, and 31, respectively. Based on the foregoing arguments regarding the independent claims, these dependent claims should also be in condition for allowance.

II. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections Regarding Dependent Claims

Various combinations of dependent claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over SHIMABARA in view of one or more other patents/references. Based on the foregoing regarding the independent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the §103 rejections of the dependent claims are now moot and these claims are in condition for allowance.

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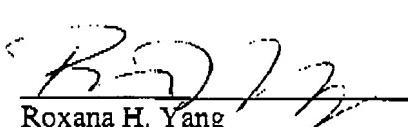
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III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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